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'Anti-Maidan' Rally in Downtown Moscow Gets Green Light

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Moscow authorities have granted permission to pro-Kremlin demonstrators to hold an Anti-Maidan rally in the city center on Feb. 21.

The rally, meant to protest the ousting of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych last February, has been given the go-ahead to host up to 10,000 demonstrators, state news agency RIA Novosti reported Wednesday.

"They will move along Ulitsa Petrovka and then end at Ploshchad Revolyutsii with a rally," Alexei Maiorov, head of Moscow's municipal security department, was cited as saying.

The event will be held on the first anniversary of Yanukovych's forced departure from his country's capital, having been toppled after months of protests by pro-European demonstrators on Kiev's Independence Square. The Anti-Maidan rally will be held under the slogan: "We won't forget, we won't forgive," according to RIA Novosti.

The Anti-Maidan movement was established in mid-January with the proclaimed objective

of preventing popular uprisings like Ukraine's Maidan movement from taking place in Russia.

The newly minted group features many high-profile leaders, including Alexander "the Surgeon" Zaldostanov, leader of patriotic biker gang, the Night Wolves.

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